



The Guardian of Public Health

UPDATE

June 9, 2006

Preparedness and Planning

HHS Announces \$1.2 Billion for Bioterrorism Preparedness

United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary, Mike Leavitt, today announced that an additional \$1.2 billion is available to the states, territories, and four metropolitan areas to help strengthen their capacity to respond to terrorism and other public health emergencies. The HHS funding is awarded via two separate but interrelated cooperative agreements. HHS's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is providing \$766 million to develop emergency-ready public health departments by upgrading, improving, and sustaining their preparedness and response capabilities. HHS's Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is providing \$450 million for states to develop medical surge capacity and capability to deal with mass casualty events. Michigan received \$23,221,202 and \$15,060,697 from the CDC and HRSA cooperative agreements, respectively. For the complete HHS press release, click [here](#).

SNS Guidance Document Updated to Version 10.01

"Receiving, Distributing, and Dispensing Strategic National Stockpile Assets: A Guide for Preparedness" has been updated to Version 10.01. Six chapters and six appendices have been revised, and four new appendices have been added. The attached revision table outlines where the changes occurred, and as always, the most current copy of the Guide can be downloaded from the DSNS Extranet site. This information has also been posted on the HAN in the EPC General Information folder and the SNS Updates and Resources folder. If you have any questions, please contact the DSNS Subject Matter Expert assigned to your state, or Ms Susie Doctor by email at doctors@michigan.gov.

Americans Not As Prepared As They Think

Although the vast majority of Americans think they are prepared for a hurricane or other disaster, a new poll released on May 23, 2006 by the American Red Cross showed that most have not taken even the basic steps needed to prepare for a disaster or emergency situation. The Red Cross recommends that everyone consider which disasters can disrupt their communities, create a plan for how to handle these events, and gather the necessary supplies. The Red Cross urges individuals, businesses and families across the country to contact their local Red Cross chapter or go online to find a complete list of emergency and disaster preparedness tips, plans and kit supply lists to get prepared today. Click [here](#) for further information.

New Emergency Preparedness and Response Webpage

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have launched a new website that provides information on the Emergency Manage-

News

Rudrik Named First Ever Recipient of APHL Award

The Association of Public Health Laboratories has awarded Dr. James Rudrik with the first ever Association of Public Health Laboratory's (APHL's) Emerging Leader Award. This prestigious award was bestowed upon Dr. Rudrik based upon his leadership in the laboratory as well as his instrumentation in one or more advances in laboratory science, practice, management, policy or education. Through the work of Dr. Rudrik, MDCH has expanded the Regional Laboratory system, a network of seven regional laboratories statewide. Dr. Rudrik has actively participated in the Bio Watch Program and has been involved in the designing of the laboratory portion of the project to pilot rapid HIV testing in Michigan.

Events

"The Public Health and the Law in the 21st Century"

June 12-14, 2006 - Atlanta, GA

"Putting the Pieces Together" Behavior Mental Health Conference:

June 26, 2006 - Lansing, MI

June 28, 2006 - Gaylord, MI

ment Assistance Compact (EMAC) and the EMAC Environmental Health Assistance Project. The EMAC is an interstate mutual aid agreement that provides a mechanism for sharing personnel, resources, equipment and assets among states during emergencies and disasters. The CDC's (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) has initiated the EMAC Environmental Health Assistance Project. In support of that, NCEH established a working group composed of federal, state and local agencies, associations and organizations to explore how public health and environmental health departments can use EMAC during emergencies and disasters. Click [here](#) for more information.

Ardent Sentry

During the week of May 8, OPHP participated in the Federal Ardent Sentry Exercise. Ardent Sentry was a federally driven terrorist exercise that included activities in multiple states. Federal official asked Michigan to participate in this exercise due to our international borders; Canada was also an exercise participant. The exercise included explosions with chlorine and phosgene gas release, building collapse and multi-casualty scenarios.

OPHP staff members involved in the exercise assisted the Federal Government in the 24/7 Control Cell. OPHP conducted two exercises in conjunction with the Federal activities. One exercise included all the Local Health Departments. OPHP notified the Local Health Departments to travel to one of their Distribution Nodes and conduct three levels of communication with OPHP. Each node confirmed their arrival with landline and cellular phone communications, some used 800 MHz radio communications while others utilized their satellite phone capabilities. All Nodes also had to send and receive a fax to confirm connectivity with OPHP. All of the objectives for this portion of the exercise were met, and the lessons learned are allowing OPHP to reconsider equipment and logistical needs in the event is system is implemented.

OPHP also exercised its new Community Health Emergency Coordination Center (CHECC) Duty Officer position. A duty officer was activated on Monday, May 8 at 8:00am and concluded at 5:00pm Wednesday, May 10. A duty officer was in service for the entire time of this three-day exercise, either by cellular phone or 800 MHz radio. This exercise was a complete success and the lessons learned allowed OPHP to develop the Job Action Guidelines and incorporate the position into the CHECC command structure.

Canadian Forces Unveil Disaster Operations Centre

Canadian Forces have made a good start towards getting Canada prepared to handle disasters, whether man-made or natural. The Forces have set up four organizations, Canada Command, responsible for continental North America; Canadian Expeditionary Forces, which co-ordinates international operations; Canadian Operational Support Command; and the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, which oversees special units. Six regional commands: North, Pacific, West, Central, East, and Atlantic are under the operational command of Canada COM and are responsible for all routine and contingency operations in their respective areas in Canada.



Transportation's Role in Public Health Disasters

The Transportation Research Board's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) has compiled a report which examines development of transportation response options to an extreme event involving chemical, biological, or radiological agents. The report contains technical information on chemical, biological, and radiological threats, including vulnerabilities of the transportation system to these agents and consequence-minimization

actions that may be taken within the transportation system in response to events that involve these agents. The report also includes a spreadsheet tool, called the Tracking Emergency Response Effects on Transportation (TERET), that is designed to assist transportation managers with recognition of mass-care transportation needs and identification and mitigation of potential transportation-related criticalities in essential services during extreme events. The report includes a user's manual for TERET, as well as a PowerPoint slide introduction to chemical, biological, and radiological threat agents designed as an executive-level communications tool based on summary information from the report. Click [here](#) for more information.

National Survey of State Homeland Security Officials

Many state homeland security and emergency management officials have serious concerns about key aspects of domestic security, including communications, immigration, critical infrastructure, safety of schools, shipping and cargo transport, and funding allocations. Western Carolina University surveyed thirty-four state officials to gauge opinion on these key topics. Click [here](#) for more information.

Integrated Patient Tracking

COMCARE has launched the Integrated Patient Tracking Initiative (IPTI), bringing together a representative group of experts to develop a national framework that communities and regions can use when beginning their own patient tracking programs. This framework will include an integrated list of requirements, best practices from previous deployments, technical solutions for data exchange and collection, a framework for interoperability with other application systems, a model Request for Proposals (RFP) and a sample deployment plan. Click [here](#) for more information.

Change to the National Response Plan

The Department of Homeland Security has transmitted a "Notice of Change" to the National Response Plan (NRP). The Notice of Change identifies locations in the December 2004 version of the NRP where changes have been made. Later this year, there will be an extensive review of the NRP, at which time the NRP will be reissued. Click [here](#) for more information.

Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) for Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI) Train-the-Trainer Course

FEMA has implemented a monthly offering of "Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty Incidents Train-the-Trainer" at the Noble Training Center (NTC) in Anniston, AL. This course is designed to provide guidance to hospitals, EMS, health care facility personnel and others who may become involved in a mass casualty incident as a result of a hazardous materials incident or weapons of mass destruction event. This course expands on the hospital incident command system (HICS), chemical protective clothing, equipment (CPC&E) requirements, as well as HERT design, development, and training. This course prepares a HERT to conduct a safe and effective emergency response during mass casualty incidents. Click [here](#) for more information. Onsite training is also available at your hospital or healthcare facility. If you have questions feel free to call Ron Freeman at (323) 757-0716, (323) 823-0856, or email him at hertii@earthlink.net.

Surveillance

Media Attitudes and Coverage of Pandemic Flu

A new report released by Trust for America's Health (TFAH) and the Mailman School of Public Health of Columbia University finds that journalists covering public health issues see a government and society that is "thoroughly unprepared"

for a pandemic flu outbreak. The researchers assessed the media's take on issues related to avian flu and pandemic flu, including preparedness, the seriousness of the threat, and obstacles to covering the issues. For the full report click [here](#).

Question and Answers About Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) and Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Virus

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated their "Questions and Answers" webpage for Avian Influenza, and this includes new information on the use of masks to prevent pandemic influenza and whether or not the seasonal influenza vaccine will prevent pandemic influenza. For more information, click [here](#).

Avian Influenza: Current Situation

The avian influenza A (H5N1) epizootic (animal outbreak) in Asia and parts of Europe, the Near East, and Africa is not expected to diminish significantly in the short term. It is likely that H5N1 infection among birds has become endemic in certain areas and that human infections resulting from direct contact with infected poultry will continue to occur. Sporadic human infections with H5N1 continue to be reported and have most recently occurred in China, Egypt, Indonesia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, and Djibouti. So far, the spread of H5N1 virus from person-to-person has been rare and has not continued beyond one person. On June 7, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued new guidance for laboratory testing of persons with suspected H5N1 infection. No evidence for genetic reassortment between human and avian influenza A virus genes has been found; however, this epizootic continues to pose an important public health threat. Click [here](#) and [here](#) for more information.



Avian Influenza: Indonesian Situation

There is an ongoing World Health Organization (WHO) investigation into a family cluster of H5N1-infected persons in Kubu Simbelang village, Karo District, North Sumatra. As of June 9, no new cases of H5N1 infection have been detected since May 22. Despite multiple opportunities for the virus to spread to other family members, health care workers or into the general community, it has not, on present evidence, done so. For more information, click [here](#).

Estimating Potential Impact of an Influenza Pandemic

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have written instructions to enable state and local officials to estimate the potential impact for both 1968-type and 1918-type influenza pandemics. The instructions describe how to use FluAid 2.0 and FluSurge 2.0 software to estimate the number of deaths, hospitalizations, and outpatient visits and the increased demand for hospital-based resources (e.g., hospital beds, intensive-care-unit beds, or ventilators) for both scenarios. The instructions and software can be used to estimate the potential impact for a locale of almost any size (e.g., country, state, county, city, or town). For more information, click [here](#).

Hospital Preparedness

Integrated Patient Tracking

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patient tracking programs. This framework will include an integrated list of requirements, best practices from previous deployments, technical solutions for data exchange and collection, a framework for interoperability with other application systems, a model Request for Proposals (RFP) and a sample deployment plan. For further information, see:
http://www.comcare.org/Patient_Tracking/IPTI_Index.html.

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for Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI) Train-the-Trainer Course

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Training and Education

Behavior Mental Health Conference

OPHP is planning a 2006 Behavior Mental Health Conference entitled, "Putting the Pieces Together: Critical Concepts in Disaster Mental Health Preparedness". This conference is being offered in two locations: Both are barrier free facilities Monday June 26th in Lansing at the Holiday Inn South, and Wednesday June 28th in Gaylord at the Otsego Club. The goal of this conference is to increase awareness of the disaster mental health challenges that mental health professionals will face during a major event in Michigan. At the conclusion of the seminar, participants will be able to:

- understand human behavior responses commonly demonstrated in disaster events,
- recognize the phases of disaster,
- identify at risk populations in the community,
- understand the conceptual differences between disaster mental health services and traditional mental health, and
- understand the stress involved in disaster work in order to be able to recognize and manage that stress for self and other response workers.

The keynote speakers will be:

- Dr. James T. Reese – who retired from the FBI after serving 25 years as a Supervisory Special Agent. He served as Assistant Unit Chief of the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit and as adjunct faculty in criminology and psychology with the University of Virginia for 18 years. Dr. Reese is an internationally known, award-winning author, lecturer and consultant in the areas of stress management, leadership, and criminal profiling.
- Dr. Gordon J. Blush – a licensed psychologist who has been involved in a broad spectrum of professional activities for 45 years. Dr. Blush served as Professor of Psychology at Macomb Community College in Warren, Michigan for 33 years. He currently teaches graduate courses on interview and investigation strategies, and adaptive skills for persons rendering social and human services.

You can register for this conference through [MI-TRAIN](#) . Questions concerning registration should be directed to Ms Krystn Grinnell at (517) 335-8987.

OPHP is accredited by the Michigan State Medical Society Committee on CME Accreditation to provide continuing medical education for physicians, as well as an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Michigan Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Centers Commission on Accreditation. The Department of Community Health has been approved to offer five hours of continuing education credits for Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRC) and Social Workers (LSWs, MSWs). Any questions regarding the conference may be directed to Ms Cheryl Klima at (517) 335-5680 or by e-mail at caklima@michigan.gov.

The Public Health and the Law in the 21st Century: 5th Annual Partnership Conference

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be hosting "The Public Health and the Law in the 21st Century: 5th Annual Partnership Conference," on June 12-14, 2006 in Atlanta, Georgia at the Westin Peachtree Plaza. Law is a traditional public health tool for disease prevention and health promotion. For many traditional public health problems, both acute and chronic, the role of law has been crucial in attaining public health goals, even rivaling the roles of epidemiology and laboratory science. Many of the greatest successes claimed by public health, such as high childhood immunization rates, improved motor vehicle safety, safer workplaces, and reduced tooth decay, have relied heavily on law. In the past few years, law has shaped public health advances in the control of emerging health problems such as SARS and the threat of pandemic influenza. This annual conference focuses on innovative legal tools and strategies for public health and explores cutting-edge issues at the crossroads of public health and the law.

ComNET

St. Petersburg College will be broadcasting "ComNET" on Wednesday, June 28, 2006 from 2-3pm. Featured stories are: Intelligence Toolbox Training, Advanced Chemical/Biological Integrated Response Course, Bioshield 2006, and Isolation and Quarantine. OPHP will be showing this in our large training room. If you are NOT OPHP staff and would like to attend please call 517-335-8150 at least 24 hours before the broadcast.

Risky Business: Communication During Crisis

How do public health professionals best communicate with the public and other officials in emergency situations or times of uncertainty? How can we simultaneously protect people and keep panic at a minimum? University at Albany will be broadcasting "Risky Business: Communication During Crisis" on Thursday, July 13, 2006 from 10-11am. This program will provide clear guidelines for and what pitfalls to avoid in order for public health professionals to communicate most effectively in high-risk situations. OPHP will be showing this in our library. If you are NOT OPHP staff and would like to attend please call 517-335-8150 at least 24 hours before the broadcast.

Live Response: The Psychological Impact of Terrorism


The National Terrorism Preparedness Institute at St. Petersburg College will be broadcasting "Live Response: The Psychological Impact of Terrorism" on Wednesday, July 19, 2006 from 2-3pm. Victims are affected by terrorism and can be impacted psychologically, such as development of post-traumatic stress disorder. Emergency Responders may also experience symptoms associated with traumatic events. Providing mental healthcare to public safety personnel is important for their overall well-being. Critical Incident Stress Management will be explored during this edition of "Live Response". OPHP will be showing this in our large training room. If you are NOT OPHP staff and would like to attend please call 517-335-8150 at least 24 hours before the broadcast.

The Role of Health Promoter in Emergency Response

The Alabama Public Health Training Network will be broadcasting "The Role of Health Promoter in Emergency Response" on Tuesday, August 1, 2006 from 2-3pm. Health promoters are vital assets to emergency preparedness, but are often overlooked in state and local emergency response. The recent national disasters highlight the critical need for health promotion skills in community as well as the lessons learned in the recent Gulf Coast crises. This plenary will provide some key observations from ground zero responders as well as CDC's Emergency Communication System staff. OPHP will be showing this in our large training room. If you are NOT OPHP staff and would like to attend please call 517-335-8150 at least 24 hours before the broadcast.

Regional News

Region 3 Staff Prepare for Communications Exercise



Region 3 HRSA staff are actively involved in preparations for the "Urgent Message '06" communications exercise which is scheduled on August 10, 2006. This will be a coordinated event involving not just the hospitals and EMS agencies in the Region, but also the Full District 3 Emergency Management staff and the local Public Health Departments in our fourteen-county region. We also are planning on the participation of the SEOC and the CHECC (formally the SHOC) along with the regional epidemiologist. The scenario will deal with a major disease outbreak that will impact all areas of the region as well as all of the major players. The event will primarily exercise all forms and aspects of the communications gambit in our area including telephones, fax, MIHAN, EMSsystems, 800 MHz radios, and RACES. A major outcome expected from this event is the testing of the EMHSD District 3 / BT Region 3 / Public Health Department communication plan. We will determine potential gaps and/or flaws in our system, and try to improve the dynamic communication plan document. More importantly, this event will test the interaction of the three areas of preparedness in Region 3: Emergency Management, Public Health, and Bioterrorism response. These three key sectors have recognized that any response to a public health event will impact all of them, and they are making a concerted effort to coordinate the response in Region 3. We're not expecting everything to work smoothly, but we see this as a method to proactively promote cooperation and teamwork among all of the participants. All three parties are looking forward to the experience and the chance to promote our unified approach to disaster response.

Other News

Study to Test Port Quake Preparedness

A team of experts from the Georgia Institute of Technology has just started a five-year project that will test how much America's billion-dollar seaport industry could withstand if pounded by Mother Nature's most catastrophic forces. Click [here](#) for the full story.

"Hurricane Season 2006: Business and Industry – Are You Ready?"

MIR3 and ImpactWeather are hosting an educational hurricane preparedness webinar on June 15 and 1pm (PDT). The free 90-minute webinar is designed for organizations that want to stay ahead of the weather by increasing the lead-time for preparing and responding to hurricanes and other weather patterns. For more information, including the required advanced registration, please click [here](#).

Mentoring Initiative in Time for Hurricane Season

Designed as a call-to-action for business leaders, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security launched the Ready Business Mentoring Initiative. This effort includes the Ready Business Mentoring Guides and other business preparedness tools to help owners and managers of small- and medium-sized businesses prepare for emergencies. There are two workbooks, the Mentor Edition and the User Edition, and each guide consists of more than 50 pages of step-by-step information designed to teach business owners and managers about affordable ways to better protect their businesses. For more information, click [here](#).

Teen School Emergency Response Training

The Federal Emergency Management Agency promoted nationwide use of the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) in 1994. Since then, this concept has been adopted and specialized for Teen School Emergency Response Training (Teen SERT). The primary goal is for students in our schools to learn basic preparedness and response skills. For more information, click [here](#).

National Business Summit on Pandemic Preparedness

The International Centre for Infectious Disease is sponsoring a two-day summit for executives and managers concerned with pandemic preparedness for business. This event will be held at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg, Canada. Highlights of the event include: a pandemic influenza primer, practical tips for maintaining workforce health in a pandemic, the critical role of communications in crisis, and lessons learned from the SARS experience. Click [here](#) for more information.

